

This week the House passed [H.R. 471](#), the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, which would reauthorize the Opportunity Scholarship Program in our nation's capital. The program provides children from lower-income families with the opportunity to attend a school of their parents' choosing rather than being forced into a specific neighborhood school that is too often dangerous or academically deficient. It costs less per student than traditional federal programs, is very popular among parents, and most important, its participating students have higher graduation rates than similar students attending public schools. Unfortunately, Democrats [barred](#) the program from accepting any additional students in 2009 when they controlled Congress. This is especially disappointing considering that several of these same lawmakers choose to send their children to successful private schools rather than public schools.

Educating our nation's young people is incredibly important to the future of our nation. I believe children from lower-income families should have the opportunity to escape the consequences of chronically failing public schools and enjoy the benefits of a high-quality education from a better private or faith-based school. Along with innovative reforms such as charter schools and home school cooperatives, I believe that expanding school choice is a vital component of efforts to improve the academic achievement of our children. I hope the Senate passes this legislation so that D.C. students can again receive scholarships for a better education.